



# **RHODE ISLAND** **VOTER INFORMATION** **HANDBOOK 2010**

## **November 2, 2010**

A Guide to State Referenda and Voting Procedures



# **Vote on November 2**

## **October 2 is the deadline for registering to vote**

You must register to vote by Oct. 2 in order to be eligible to cast a ballot on Election Day. Registering is easy. Download a voter registration form from our website or visit your local town or city hall. You must be at least 18 years of age by Nov. 2, a resident of Rhode Island and a U.S. citizen.

## **Find your polling place now and save time on Election Day**

A record number of Rhode Islanders are registered to vote - more than 700,000 in all. Use our website to see where you will vote, review a sample ballot for your polling place and confirm that your voter registration information is accurate.

**[www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov)**

# A Message From Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Office of the Secretary of State

**A. Ralph Mollis**  
Secretary of State

September 2010

Dear Fellow Rhode Islander:

As Secretary of State, I am committed to making it easier to vote. This "Voter Information Handbook" includes advice about using voting equipment and finding your polling place as well as contact information for the state Board of Elections and the board of canvassers of every city and town.

In addition, this handbook includes background on the ballot question and bond issues that will be on November's ballot along with races for the U.S. House of Representatives as well as general officers, state senator, state representative and many municipal offices.

In keeping with my pledge to use technology to improve Rhode Islanders' access to their government, the handbook and many other publications such as the "Directory of Government Officials" and the "How to Register and Vote Guide" are posted on our website at [sos.ri.gov](http://sos.ri.gov), where they are available 24/7.

Government belongs to the people. The more you know, the better you will govern. If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711 or [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of A. Ralph Mollis in blue ink, appearing as "A. Ralph Mollis".

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State

# Table of Contents

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Definitions of Terms .....	3
Official Statewide Referenda Questions and Explanations	
Question 1 - Amendment to the Constitution of the State (Changing the Official Name of the State) .....	4-5
Question 2 - Higher Education Facilities Bonds.....	6-7
Question 3 - Transportation Bonds .....	8-9
Question 4 - Open Space and Recreational Development Bonds.....	10-11
Bond Financing .....	12
Voting at the Polls .....	13-15
Voting by Mail Ballot.....	16
Still Have Questions about Voting? .....	17
Using Voting Equipment .....	18
Using AutoMark Voting Equipment for Persons with Disabilities or Visual Impairments .....	19
Contact Your Local Board of Canvassers or Election Office .....	20

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Office of the Secretary of State prepared this handbook with the help of the Budget Office of the state Department of Administration, individual state agencies and bond counsel. We greatly appreciate their time and effort.

## **WARNING**

Voter fraud is a felony and may be punishable by a fine and/or a jail sentence. You must be registered to vote from your actual place of residence.

# Definitions of Terms

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## BONDS

A bond is an obligation or agreement made binding by a pledge of financial backing. A bond is written evidence of the State's obligation to repay the principal borrowed with interest at specified rates and maturity dates.

## CONSTITUTION

The Rhode Island Constitution is the fundamental law of the State of Rhode Island. It frames and provides the basic principles which are to regulate the relations of the citizens of the State of Rhode Island, the State of Rhode Island and the branches of the government of the State of Rhode Island.

## GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

A general obligation bond is a bond which is secured by the full faith and credit and taxing power of the State.

## ISSUING BONDS

To “issue” bonds means to sell, deliver, and receive payment for bonds. The State generally issues bonds once a year upon determining the amount of cash necessary to implement projects during that year.

## PREAMBLE

The introductory part of a constitution or statute that usually states the reasons for and intent of the law.

## REFERENDUM

A referendum is a means by which a legislative body requests the electorate to approve or reject proposals such as constitutional amendments, long-term borrowing, and special laws affecting some cities and towns.

The Rhode Island Constitution prohibits the State's legislature from making an amendment to the Constitution or from entering into a debt for over a one-year period without the consent of the electorate. When the General Assembly wishes to incur debt beyond a one-year period, it authorizes an election at which voters can approve or reject incurring long-term debt.

Such a legislative request is always phrased as a question. Therefore, a referendum is called a question. Referenda is the plural form of the word.

## REFUNDING BONDS

Bond referenda provide authority for the State to issue refunding bonds. This means that the State can refinance existing bonds at lower interest rates by calling in and paying off the existing bonds and refinancing them at lower interest rates.

The principal behind refunding bonds is similar to refinancing a mortgage when interest rates decline: it saves taxpayers' dollars.

## TEMPORARY NOTES

Each borrowing question also authorizes the state to provide short-term financing, in the form of temporary notes, prior to the issuance of bonds in order to assure that money is available for projects needing immediate funding.

# QUESTION 1

## QUESTION 1:

### 1. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (CHANGING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE STATE)**

(Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution)

Approval of the amendment to the Title, Preamble and Section 3 of Article III of the Rhode Island Constitution set forth below will have the effect of changing the official name of the State from "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" to "State of Rhode Island":

**APPROVE**  

**REJECT**  

#### Full text of amendment for Question 1

The Title of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

The Preamble of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

We, the people of this State which state shall henceforth be known as the state of Rhode Island, grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution of government.

Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Oath of general officers. - - All general officers shall take the following engagement before they act in their respective offices, to wit: You being by the free vote of the electors of this state of Rhode Island, elected unto the place of do solemnly swear (or, affirm) to be true and faithful unto this state, and to support the Constitution of this state and of the United States; that you will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties of your aforesaid office to the best of your abilities, according to law: So help you God. [Or: This affirmation you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.]

# EXPLANATION 1

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## EXPLANATION FOR QUESTION 1:

### AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (CHANGING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE STATE)

#### PURPOSE AND EXPLANATION: WHAT WOULD APPROVAL OF THIS QUESTION DO?

The General Assembly has proposed by joint resolution an amendment to the Title, Preamble and Section 3 of Article III of the Rhode Island Constitution in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution for approval by the State's electors. If approved by the State's electors, the proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution will have the effect of changing the official name of the State from "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" to "State of Rhode Island". The proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution is set forth below:

The Title of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND ~~AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS~~

The Preamble of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

We, the people of ~~the~~ this State which state shall henceforth be known as the state of Rhode Island ~~and Providence Plantations~~, grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution of government.

Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Oath of general officers. - All general officers shall take the following engagement before they act in their respective offices, to wit: You being by the free vote of the electors of this state of Rhode Island ~~and Providence Plantations~~, elected unto the place of do solemnly swear (or, affirm) to be true and faithful unto this state, and to support the Constitution of this state and of the United States; that you will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties of your aforesaid office to the best of your abilities, according to law: So help you God. [Or: This affirmation you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.]

The words and phrases in the proposed amendment to the Constitution set forth above that have been crossed-out are words and phrases currently found in the applicable section of the Constitution that would be removed by the amendment. The words and phrases in the proposed amendment to the Constitution set forth above that have been underlined are words and phrases that are not currently found in the applicable section of the Constitution that would be added by the amendment.

A vote to "Approve" means you want to change the official name of the State as reflected in the Constitution from "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" to "State of Rhode Island".

A vote to "Reject" means that you do not want to change the official name of the State as reflected in the Constitution from "State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations" to "State of Rhode Island".

#### HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?

The referendum would not authorize any borrowing.

# QUESTION 2

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## QUESTION 2:

2.

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES BONDS

\$78,000,000

(Chapter 23 - Public Laws 2010)

Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed sixty-one million dollars (\$61,000,000) for the construction of a new chemistry building at the University of Rhode Island, and seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) for the renovation and construction of an addition to the Art Center at Rhode Island College.

APPROVE

REJECT

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# EXPLANATION 2

## EXPLANATION FOR QUESTION 2:

### HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

#### PURPOSE: WHAT WILL THE HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES BONDS DO?

Approval and issuance of these bonds will provide funds to the Board of Governors for Higher Education to construct a new building to house the Center for Chemical and Forensic Sciences at the University of Rhode Island and to renovate, and construct an addition to, the Art Center at Rhode Island College, which is an approximately 34,000 square foot building originally constructed in 1958 that consists of classrooms, studios and faculty offices.

#### HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?

\$78,000,000

#### EXPLANATION: HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

- (a) \$61,000,000 will be used to construct a new chemistry building and related infrastructure and utility connections at the University of Rhode Island; and
- (b) \$17,000,000 will be used to renovate, and construct an addition to, the Art Center and related infrastructure and utility connections at Rhode Island College.

#### PROJECT TIME TABLE:

The program to construct the new chemistry building at the University of Rhode Island is expected to commence in January 2011 and expected to be completed by January 2014. The program to renovate, and construct an addition to, the Art Center at Rhode Island College is expected to commence in July 2011 and be completed by September 2012.

#### USEFUL LIFE:

The Board of Governors for Higher Education estimates the useful life of the project at the University of Rhode Island to be 40 years and at Rhode Island College to be 30 years.

#### TOTAL COST:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$77,688,000	\$57,775,877	\$312,000	\$232,032	\$78,000,000	\$58,007,909	\$136,007,909

\* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% OF PRINCIPAL ISSUED.

\*\*Assumes an interest rate of 6.0%, with bonds amortized with level payments over twenty years.

# QUESTION 3

## QUESTION 3:

3.

TRANSPORTATION BONDS

\$84,700,000

(Chapter 23 - Public Laws 2010)

Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) to match federal funds and provide direct funding for improvements to the state's highways, roads and bridges and four million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$4,700,000) to purchase and/or rehabilitate buses for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's bus fleet.

APPROVE

REJECT

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# EXPLANATION 3

## EXPLANATION OF QUESTION 3:

### TRANSPORTATION

#### PURPOSE: WHAT WILL THE TRANSPORTATION BONDS DO?

Approval and issuance of these bonds will provide funds to the Department of Transportation to match available federal funds and to provide direct funding for improvements to the State's highways, roads and bridges and to purchase new buses and/or rehabilitate existing buses in the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's bus fleet.

#### HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?

\$84,700,000

#### EXPLANATION: HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

- (a) \$80,000,000 will be used to match federal highway funds and to provide direct funding for improvements to the State's highways, roads and bridges; and
- (b) \$4,700,000 will be used to purchase new buses and/or rehabilitate existing buses in the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's bus fleet.

#### PROJECT TIME TABLE:

The program to improve highways, roads and bridges is expected to commence in 2011 and be completed by the end of 2012, although some funds may be spent after 2012. The purchase and/or rehabilitation of buses for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority's bus fleet is expected to commence in 2012 and be completed by the end of 2013, although some funds may be spent after 2013.

#### USEFUL LIFE:

The Department of Transportation estimates that the useful life of highway, road and bridge improvements will be approximately 10 to 30 years, depending on the type of improvements made. The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority estimates that the useful life of buses purchased and/or rehabilitated will be between 10 to 12 years depending on the size of the bus.

#### TOTAL COST:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$84,361,200	\$62,738,677	\$338,800	\$251,962	\$84,700,000	\$62,990,639	\$147,690,639

\* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% OF PRINCIPAL ISSUED.

\*\*Assumes an interest rate of 6.0%, with bonds amortized with level payments over twenty years.

# QUESTION 4

## QUESTION 4:

4.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION BONDS

\$14,700,000

(Chapter 23 - Public Laws 2010)

Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring title to all or a portion of land in and around the former Rocky Point Park for the purpose of establishing the same as a public park, and three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) for the purpose of transferring title to 25 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 from the department of transportation to the department of environmental management, with the funds to be used to reimburse the US federal highway administration for the market value of the property preserving the same as open space and for recreation, and to further issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purpose of improvements and renovations to Fort Adams State Park in the city of Newport dedicated to the preservation and public accessibility of the Fort.

APPROVE

REJECT

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# EXPLANATION 4

## EXPLANATION OF QUESTION 4:

### OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

#### PURPOSE: WHAT WILL THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION BONDS DO?

Approval and issuance of these bonds will provide funds to the Department of Environmental Management to acquire title to all or a portion of land in and around the former Rocky Point Park for the purpose of establishing the same as a public park; to transfer title to 25 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Environmental Management, with the funds to be used to reimburse the US federal highway administration for the market value of the property preserving the same as open space and for recreation; and to improve and renovate Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport for the preservation and public accessibility of the Fort.

#### HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?

\$14,700,000

#### EXPLANATION: HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

- (a) \$10,000,000 will be used to acquire title to all or a portion of land in and around the former Rocky Point Park for the purpose of establishing the same as a public park;
- (b) \$3,200,000 will be used to transfer title to 25 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Environmental Management, with the funds to be used to reimburse the US federal highway administration for the market value of the property preserving the same as open space and for recreation; and
- (c) \$1,500,000 will be used for improvements and renovations to Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport dedicated to the preservation and public accessibility of the Fort.

#### PROJECT TIME TABLE:

The program to acquire title to all or a portion of land in and around the former Rocky Point Park for the purpose of establishing the same as a public park is expected to commence in January 2011 and expected to be completed in December 2011. The transfer of title to 25 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Environmental Management and the reimbursement of the US federal highway administration for the market value of the property to preserve the property as open space and for recreation is expected to commence and be completed in January 2011. The program to improve and renovate Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport is expected to commence in July 2011 and expected to be completed by June 2013.

#### USEFUL LIFE:

The Department of Environmental Management estimates the useful life of the land in and around the former Rocky Point Park to be acquired and the property at 25 India Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 to be transferred to be in perpetuity. The Department of Environmental Management estimates the useful life of the improvements and renovations to be made to Fort Adams State Park in the City of Newport to be 25 years.

#### TOTAL COST:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$14,641,200	\$10,888,531	\$58,800	\$43,729	\$14,700,000	\$10,932,260	\$25,632,260

\* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% OF PRINCIPAL ISSUED.

\*\*Assumes an interest rate of 6.0%, with bonds amortized with level payments over twenty years.

ESTIMATED COST OF BORROWING

The chart below provides an estimated cost for each referendum question authorizing the State to borrow money for each project. If you want to know the cost for a particular referendum project, including the costs associated with the issuance of the bonds, you will find the amount in the columns entitled “Total Project and Issuance Costs” under “principal,” and the amount of “interest” in the next column. The far right hand column entitled “total costs,” reflects the total principal plus interest for any particular question. These costs include both the estimated project costs and the estimated cost associated with the issuance of the bonds, such as legal fees, rating agency fees, printing and underwriting costs.

For example, for bond referendum question number 2, Higher Education Facilities, the figure in the column headed “principal” under “Total Project and Issuance Costs” is the amount which appears on the ballot question - \$78,000,000. The amount of \$58,007,909 in the next column is the estimated interest on \$78,000,000 over a twenty-year period. The total cost of borrowing is calculated by adding the principal and interest for a total cost of \$136,007,909.

The interest rates for each referendum are estimated; actual interest rates will vary depending upon the bond market at the time of issuance. The estimated costs assume the bonds are amortized over a twenty-year period.

Estimated Bond Referenda Costs

BOND REFERENDUM QUESTION	PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS	
	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Total Costs
2. Higher Education Facilities	\$77,688,000	\$57,775,877	\$312,000	\$232,032	\$78,000,000	\$136,007,909
3. Transportation	84,361,200	62,738,677	338,800	251,962	84,700,000	147,690,639
4. Open Space and Recreation	14,641,200	10,888,531	58,800	43,729	14,700,000	25,632,260
Total Borrowing Costs for all Referenda	\$176,690,400	\$131,403,085	\$709,600	\$527,723	\$177,400,000	\$309,330,808

\* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% OF PRINCIPAL ISSUED.  
\*\*Assumes an interest rate of 6.0%, with bonds amortized with level payments over twenty years.

# Voting at the Polls

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## Where do I vote?

Your polling place is determined by your place of residence. Watch your local newspaper for an announcement indicating poll locations and times, or contact your local board of canvassers.

You may also find your polling place location on the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ri.gov/vic](http://www.sos.ri.gov/vic) or by calling the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 401-222-2340 or TDD 711.

## How do I identify myself at the polling place?

In most cases you don't need to provide proof of identity at the polling place. When you enter your polling place, state your name and address to one of the bi-partisan supervisors seated at the check-in table. If your name is found on the voting list and your street address matches the voter list, the supervisor will give you a short ballot application. Sign the application.

If you live at a different address from the one shown for you on the voting list, or if you have been listed as “inactive” because mail sent to your listed address has been returned by the Post Office, you will need to fill out and sign an additional affirmation form before voting.

## When is an identification document required?

An identification document will only be needed if you are a first-time mail registrant in RI or a first-time registrant through a third party and you have not submitted the required identification by Election Day. You will be notified in advance by mail that you should bring identification to the polls.

If I must show identification when I vote, what documents can I show?


The acceptable documents include, but are not limited to, provided that the document includes your name and current address, and is dated since the date of the last general election:

- › Valid RI driver's license or RI ID
- › Current utility bill
- › Current bank statement
- › Current government check
- › Current paycheck

## How do I get my ballot?

Once your name is checked off on the voting list by the supervisor, you will be directed to the clerk seated at the check-in table. Hand the clerk your ballot application. The clerk will give you the appropriate ballot and a paper cover, called a “secrecy sleeve.” The secrecy sleeve helps ensure the privacy of your election choice. The clerk will send you to a voting booth where you can mark your ballot in private. There will be a marking pen in the voting booth for your use in marking your ballot.

## What does the ballot look like?

The ballot is a large piece of paper, approximately 9 inches by 17 inches. You will see the names of the offices being elected with the names of the candidates and the party they represent listed underneath. You will see an open arrow like this:  to the right of each candidate's name. In addition to the elected offices and candidates, you will also see a number of “questions” that voters must decide. With each question you will see two open arrows next to the words “Approve” and “Reject.” Be sure to check both sides of the ballot. Some elected offices or questions may appear on the back of the ballot.






## What races can I expect to see on the November 2, 2010 ballot?

Traditionally, the first option on your ballot is the straight party option, which is discussed below.

The names of the candidates for each federal and state race appear on the ballot with their party affiliation listed directly beneath their names. In most cities and towns, local races will appear next on the ballot. In some contests the names of the candidates appear on the ballot along with their party affiliation label. Some contests in cities and towns are labeled as “non-partisan” or “without party marks or designation.” In those cases, the candidate's party affiliation will not appear on the ballot. Your local ballot may also include races where more than one individual is to be elected. In those cases you will see instructions such as “Vote for any 2,” indicating that the voter may vote for up to 2 candidates in that race, or “Vote for any 3,” indicating that the voter may vote for up to 3 candidates in that race, and so forth.

State ballot questions and bond issues, as applicable, are then listed on the ballot. In most cases, the questions start in the first column on the backside of the ballot. Where applicable, local questions follow the state ballot questions and bond issues and are printed on a yellow background. In some cases, questions will not fit on the backside of the ballot and you will be issued an additional ballot.

## How do I vote for a candidate whose name is on the ballot?

Complete the arrow   pointing to your choice with a single bold line, like this: 

## What if the candidate I want to vote for does not appear on the ballot?

A vote for someone not shown on the printed ballot is called a “write-in.” You must do two things to cast a write-in vote.

1. Print the name of the person on the blank line labeled “write-in,” and
2. Complete the arrow pointing to the person's name next to the write-in line.

NOTE: Do not write in the names of candidates whose names already appear on your ballot as candidates for that race.

## How do I vote for all the candidates of a single party (a “straight party” vote)?

To cast a vote for all the candidates of a single party in the general election, complete the arrow pointing to the party of your choice on the “straight party” line at the top of the ballot.

This is called a “straight party” vote and is counted the same as if you had separately completed the arrows next to every candidate from that party on the entire ballot.

If you cast a straight party vote and also vote separately for an individual candidate or candidates for a certain office on the ballot, only the individual candidate or candidates who you voted for separately will be counted for that office. The straight party vote will not be counted for that office, but it will still apply for all the offices that you do not separately complete.

### Reminder about “multiple-vote” races and casting straight party votes.

Races for some local offices such as town or city council allow you to vote for two or more candidates. If you cast a separate vote for an individual candidate in a “multiple-vote” race, your “straight party vote” will not apply to any candidate in that race. If you intend to vote for more than one candidate in a multiple-vote race, be sure you complete the arrows next to every candidate you wish to vote for up to the maximum number of votes allowed.

### Don't forget “non-partisan” races and referenda.

Some elected offices and all ballot questions and bond issues are “non-partisan.” That means there is no political party label, so your straight party vote will not apply. You must cast separate votes in the non-partisan races and for ballot questions and bond issues or your ballot will be recorded as a “no vote” on those items.

Be sure to check both sides of your ballot. Candidates and questions are often on the back side of the ballot.

## Using voting equipment

After marking and checking both sides of your ballot, you will place it in the secrecy sleeve and proceed to the voting equipment. You will remove your ballot from the secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot into the voting equipment (see illustrations on page 18). The optical scanner will read your ballot. Your votes have now been counted. Place the empty secrecy sleeve on top of the voting equipment.



## **What happens if I make a mistake when marking my ballot?**

You will be given a new ballot to start over. If you make a mistake, do not erase or cross out on the ballot and try to insert it in the voting equipment. Instead, bring your ballot to the clerk. The clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. Your old ballot is then completely voided (and sealed to protect the privacy of your intended votes). The clerk will then give you a new ballot and direct you to a booth to complete it.

## **What happens if I vote for too many candidates?**

The voting equipment is programmed to reject a ballot if you vote for more candidates than allowed by law. The polling place official will ask you to remove the ballot and take it to the clerk. The clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. Your old ballot is then completely voided and sealed for your voting privacy. You will be given a new ballot and directed to a voting booth to complete it.

## **Can someone help me if I have any questions on marking my ballot?**

The clerk will explain how to mark it if you ask. The cover of the secrecy sleeve and the inside wall of the voting booth will also contain instructions on how to mark a ballot. You may also take this booklet or any other materials into the booth to assist you in voting. You can request the assistance of a bi-partisan pair of supervisors. Federal and state law allows voters who are blind, disabled or unable to read or write to bring a person of their choice into the booth. The warden will have an affidavit that must be completed.

## **What special accommodations have been made for elderly, disabled and visually impaired voters?**

There will be an accessible voting unit (AutoMark) at every polling place in Rhode Island. All registered voters are automatically entitled to use the accessible voting equipment located at each polling place - no special applications are required. When the registered voter arrives at the polling place, the voter will proceed to the check-in table and will identify himself/herself. Voter will tell supervisors at the table that the voter wants to use the AutoMark to assist in casting his/her ballot. Voter will be given a ballot and a secrecy sleeve and directed to the AutoMark unit. Voter will cast votes on ballot through the use of this accessible marking device and will then deposit his/her ballot into the tabulation device at the polling place (see illustrations on page 19). Demonstrations will be conducted throughout the state prior to the September Primary and the November Election. Each polling place will have at least one handicapped-accessible voting booth designated for priority use by voters over 65 years of age or disabled. Other voters may use the voting booth only when there are no disabled voters or voters over the age of 65 waiting to vote. Each polling place will be equipped with a sheet magnifier to assist voters who are visually impaired.

## **What can I do if my polling place is not accessible to voters with disabilities?**

If you are a voter with a disability and the polling location where you are assigned to vote is inaccessible to you, you can notify the local board of canvassers at least 5 days in advance and they will arrange an alternate means to allow you to cast your vote. Addresses and telephone numbers for local boards of canvassers are listed on page 20.

## **What if I know I am registered, but the officials can't find my name on the voter list?**

If you believe you were left off the list or otherwise prevented from regular voting by error, you will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot. First, you complete a provisional ballot application containing a statement that you are registered and eligible to vote. You then complete a ballot, which you seal inside the envelope provided with your provisional ballot. The envelope and your ballot go to election officials who will double-check and determine whether or not you are eligible to vote. If the official determines that you are eligible, your ballot will be counted with all other ballots in your polling place. The secrecy of your vote will be preserved at all times.

## **How will I know if my provisional ballot was counted?**

Your provisional ballot will be assigned a serial number, which will be provided to you before you leave the polling place. After 48 hours following the election, in most cases you will be able to check whether the ballot was counted or not by visiting the Board of Elections website at [www.elections.ri.gov](http://www.elections.ri.gov) or contacting your local board of canvassers.

# Voting By Mail Ballot

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## Am I eligible to vote by mail ballot?

To cast a mail ballot, you must be unable to vote in person for one of these reasons:

1. You are absent from the state.
2. You are a student at a college or university within Rhode Island.
3. You are physically unable to vote at a polling place because of illness or physical or mental disability.
4. Your religion prohibits it.
5. You are confined to a nursing home or hospital.
6. You are incarcerated (but not convicted of a felony).
7. You are away on military service.
8. You are a state or local election official.

## How do I apply for a mail ballot?

Obtain an application from your local board of canvassers, Board of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State or online at [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov). Unless you are on military service, you will need to have your application notarized. Your application must be received by October 12, 2010.

If you are permanently disabled, you may arrange to have mail ballot applications (not the actual ballots) mailed to you automatically. Contact your local board of canvassers on page 20.

## What if I have an emergency and I can't vote in person?

If emergency circumstances arise after the regular mail ballot application deadline, you may apply for an emergency mail ballot at your local board of canvassers. Emergency mail ballot applications are available and may be submitted until 4 p.m. on the day before the election. You may need to support your claim of medical emergency with a physician or practitioner's certificate. Your emergency mail ballot must be received by the Board of Elections, 50 Branch Avenue, Providence, RI 02904 no later than 9 p.m. on Election Day.

## Are there special procedures for UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens) voters to obtain mail ballots?

Yes. Visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.ri.gov/elections/voters](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections/voters). Then click on "Check Your Voter Registration" and enter the information that is requested under "View your personal voter registration." If you filed a RI mail ballot application or Federal Post Card Application, you will see instructions on how to download and vote your official mail ballot.

If you believe that you have UOCAVA status and you do not find UOCAVA instructions within your voter information, contact the Secretary of State's office at (401) 222-2340 or [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov).



# **Vote on November 2**

## **Still have questions about voting?**

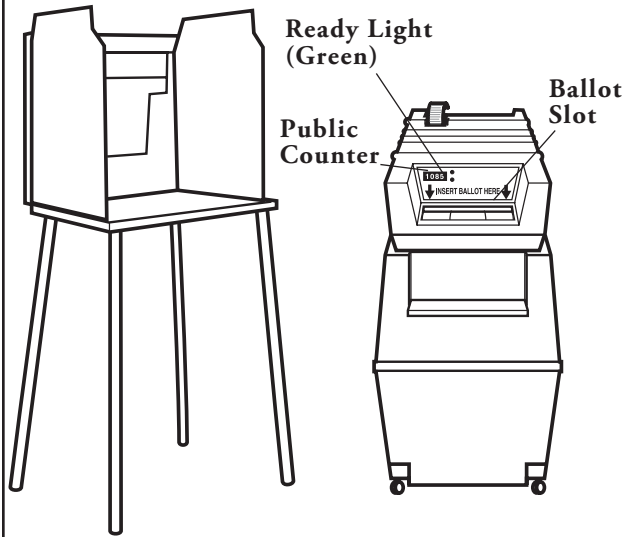
**Visit our website to get more information about:**

- › **Registering to vote** - Am I eligible and how do I register
- › **Provisional voting** - How to vote even if there is an issue with your voter registration
- › **How to vote** - Marking your ballot at your polling place
- › **Help for persons who are disabled** - Every polling place is accessible and has special equipment for persons with disabilities or visual impairments
- › **Voting by mail ballot** - Am I eligible and how do I get a mail ballot

**[www.sos.ri.gov/elections/voters](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections/voters)**

# Using Voting Equipment

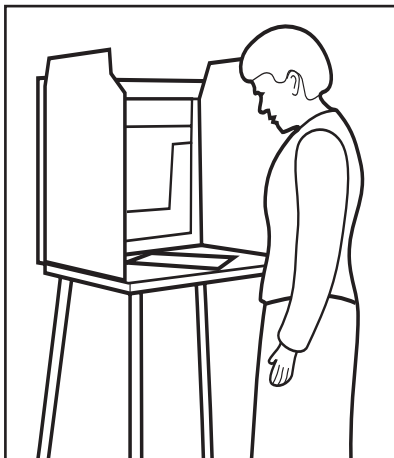
**Voting Booth    Voting Equipment**



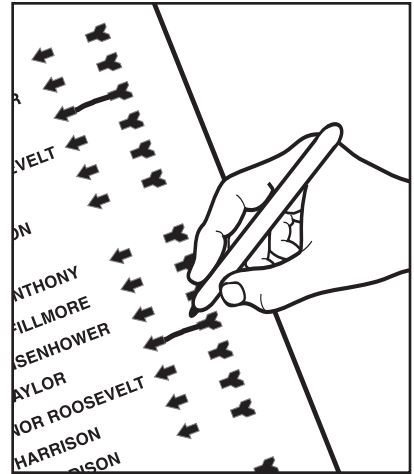
**1) Receive ballot and secrecy sleeve from the clerk.**



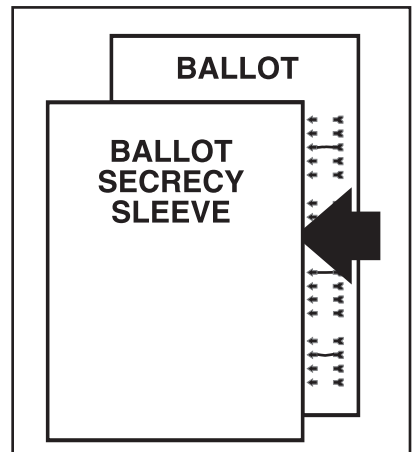
**2) Go to the voting booth to mark your ballot in private.**



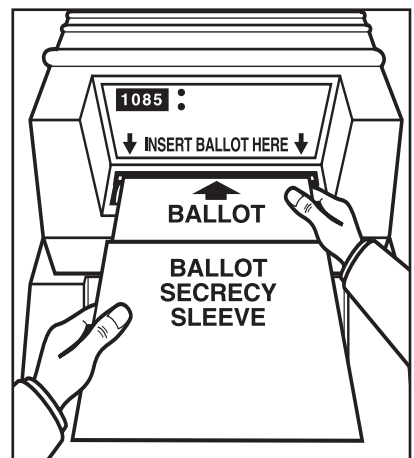
**3) Mark your ballot by completing the arrow pointing to the candidate(s) for whom you wish to vote.**



**4) Insert your ballot into the secrecy sleeve and go to the voting equipment.**



**5) Remove ballot from secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot in the voting equipment.**



**Voting is complete.**

## Note

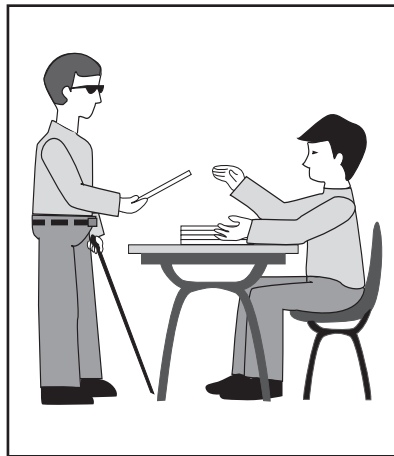
If you make a mistake, do not erase or cross out on the ballot. Bring the ballot to the clerk. In order to protect the secrecy of your intended vote, the clerk will ask you to complete several additional arrows on the ballot. The clerk will then issue a new ballot.

# Using AutoMark Voting Equipment for Persons with Disabilities or Visual Impairments.

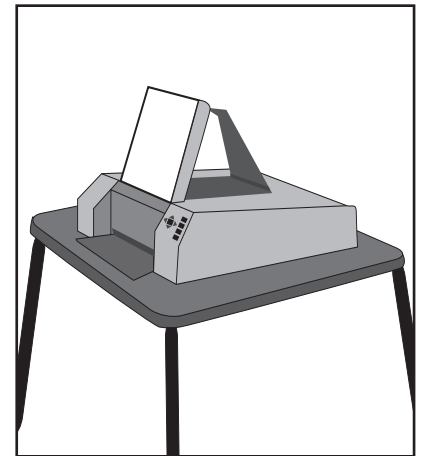
In accordance with the federal Help America Vote Act and state law, the State has purchased accessible voting equipment (AutoMark) for every polling place in Rhode Island. The AutoMark will be available at each polling place for every primary or election conducted under Rhode Island General Law, Title 17. All registered voters are automatically entitled to use the accessible voting equipment located at each polling place - no special applications are required.

## Voting Procedures

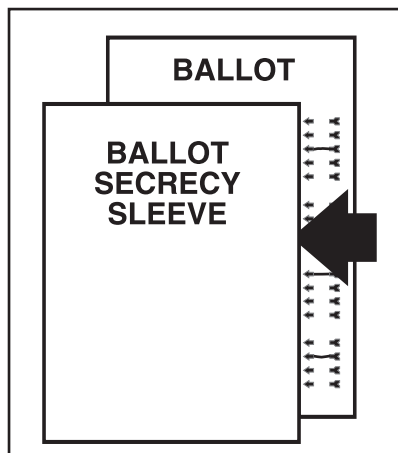
**1)** Receive ballot and secrecy sleeve from the clerk.



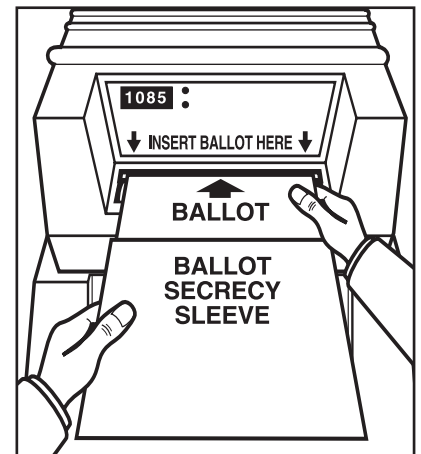
**3)** Insert your ballot into the secrecy sleeve and go to the voting equipment.



**2)** Go to the AutoMark booth to mark your ballot in private. Mark your ballot by placing it into the AutoMark unit. Follow audio instructions and make selections by using the keypad or touchscreen.



**4)** Remove ballot from secrecy sleeve and insert your ballot in the voting equipment.



***Congratulations!  
You have just voted.***

# Local Boards of Canvassers

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City or Town	Address	Telephone	Polls Open*
Barrington	283 County Rd. 02806	247-1900	7 a.m.
Bristol	10 Court St. 02809	253-7000	7 a.m.
Burrillville	105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville 02830	568-4300	7 a.m.
Central Falls	580 Broad St. 02863	727-7450	7 a.m.
Charlestown	4540 South County Trl. 02813	364-1200	7 a.m.
Coventry	1670 Flat River Rd. 02816	822-9150	7 a.m.
Cranston	869 Park Ave., Room 100 02910	780-3126	7 a.m.
Cumberland	45 Broad St. 02864	728-2400	7 a.m.
East Greenwich	125 Main St, P.O. Box 111 02818	886-8603	7 a.m.
East Providence	145 Taunton Ave. 02914	435-7502	7 a.m.
Exeter	675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822	294-2287	7 a.m.
Foster	181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825	392-9200	7 a.m.
Glocester	1145 Putnam Pike P.O. Box B 02814	568-6206	7 a.m.
Hopkinton	1 Town House Rd. 02833	377-7777	7 a.m.
Jamestown	93 Narragansett Ave. 02835	423-9804	7 a.m.
Johnston	1385 Hartford Ave. 02919	553-8856	7 a.m.
Lincoln	100 Old River Rd., P.O. Box 100 02865	333-1140	8 a.m.
Little Compton	40 Commons, P.O. Box 226 02837	635-4400	7 a.m.
Middletown	350 East Main Rd. 02842	849-5540	8 a.m.
Narragansett	25 Fifth Ave. 02882	782-0625	7 a.m.
Newport	43 Broadway 02840	845-5384	8 a.m.
New Shoreham	Old Town Rd., P.O. Box 220 02807	466-3200	9 a.m.
North Kingstown	80 Boston Neck Rd. 02852	294-3331	7 a.m.
North Providence	2000 Smith St. 02911	232-0900	7 a.m.
North Smithfield	575 Smithfield Rd. 02896	767-2200	8 a.m.
Pawtucket	137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860	722-1637	7 a.m.
Portsmouth	2200 East Main Rd. 02871	683-3157	7 a.m.
Providence	25 Dorrance St. 02903	421-0495	7 a.m.
Richmond	5 Richmond Townhouse Rd., Wyoming 02898	539-9000	7 a.m.
Scituate	195 Danielson Pike, North Scituate 02857	647-7466	7 a.m.
Smithfield	64 Farnum Pike, Esmond 02917	233-1000	7 a.m.
South Kingstown	180 High St., Wakefield 02879	789-9331	7 a.m.
Tiverton	343 Highland Rd. 02878	625-6704	8 a.m.
Warren	514 Main St. 02885	245-7340	8 a.m.
Warwick	3275 Post Rd. 02886	738-2000	7 a.m.
West Greenwich	280 Victory Hwy. 02817	392-3800	7 a.m.
West Warwick	1170 Main St. 02893	822-9201	7 a.m.
Westerly	45 Broad St. 02891	348-2503	7 a.m.
Woonsocket	169 Main St., P.O. Box B 02895	767-9224	8 a.m.

\*All polls close at 9 p.m.

# State Election Offices

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## Secretary of State

148 West River St., Providence 02904

222-2340

Voter Information Hotline

1-877-462-8683

## Board of Elections

50 Branch Ave., Providence 02904

222-2345

## Find More Information at [www.sos.ri.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ri.gov/elections)

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- › How to Register and Vote Guide
- › Federal and State Candidates Who Qualified for Ballot Placement
- › Local Candidates Who Qualified for Ballot Placement
- › Sample Ballots
- › Find Your Polling Place
- › Mail Ballot Applications
- › Voter Information Handbook